

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 106

**Introduced by Senators Romero, Alquist, Ducheny, Kehoe, Kuehl,
Migden, Negrete McLeod, Oropeza, and Wiggins**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bass, Berg, Brownley, Caballero, Carter, Evans, Fuller, Garcia, Hancock, Karnette, Parra, Sharon Runner, Saldana, Soto, Strickland, ~~and Wolk~~ Wolk, Adams, Aghazarian, Arambula, Beall, Benoit, Berryhill, Blakeslee, Charles Calderon, Cook, Coto, De La Torre, De Leon, DeSaulnier, DeVore, Duvall, Emmerson, Eng, Feuer, Fuentes, Furutani, Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Hayashi, Hernandez, Horton, Houston, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Keene, Krekorian, La Malfa, Laird, Leno, Levine, Lieber, Lieu, Ma, Maze, Mendoza, Mullin, Nakanishi, Nava, Niello, Nunez, Plescia, Portantino, Price, Ruskin, Salas, Silva, Smyth, Solorio, Spitzer, Swanson, Torrico, Tran, and Villines)

April 14, 2008

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 106—Relative to Denim Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 106, as amended, Romero. Denim Day.

This measure would recognize April 23, 2008 as “Denim Day California” and would encourage everyone to wear jeans on that day to help communicate the message that there is no excuse for, and never an invitation to, rape.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 1999, the Italian Supreme Court overturned the
- 2 conviction of a man who sexually assaulted an 18 year old woman
- 3 after the court determined that, “because the victim wore very,

1 very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing
2 the jeans it was no longer rape but consensual sex”; and

3 WHEREAS, Enraged by the court decision, within a matter of
4 hours the women in the Italian Parliament launched into immediate
5 action and protested by wearing jeans to work; and

6 WHEREAS, Nations and states throughout the world have
7 followed the lead of the Italian Parliament by designating their
8 own “Denim Day” to raise public awareness about rape and sexual
9 assault; and

10 WHEREAS, California and other states have declared April as
11 “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and the California Coalition
12 Against Sexual Assault has declared April 23rd as “Denim Day
13 California”; and

14 WHEREAS, Both events are intended to draw attention to the
15 fact that rape and sexual assault remain serious issues in our
16 society; and

17 WHEREAS, Harmful attitudes about rape and sexual assault
18 allow these crimes to persist and allow survivors to be revictimized
19 through victim-blaming attitudes and unresponsive government
20 systems; and

21 WHEREAS, California is a national leader within the judicial,
22 criminal justice, medical, rape crisis, and health communities in
23 promoting victim-centered approaches to victims of crime; and

24 WHEREAS, “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and “Denim
25 Day California” are also intended as methods of calling attention
26 to misconceptions and misinformation about rape and sexual
27 assault, as well as the problem that many in our society remain
28 disturbingly uninformed about assault and forcible rape; and

29 WHEREAS, The importance of this issue is underlined by
30 statistics indicating that approximately one-in-four women and
31 one-in-ten men are raped in adulthood and the sexual assault
32 victimization rate for youths under 18 years of age has been
33 documented at one-in-four for girls and one-in-six for boys; and

34 WHEREAS, With proper education on the matter, there is
35 compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing
36 incidents of this alarming and psychologically damaging crime;
37 and

38 WHEREAS, The Legislature strongly supports the efforts of
39 California Coalition Against Sexual Assault to educate persons in

1 our community about the true impact of rape and sexual assault
2 in California; now, therefore, be it
3 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Senate of the State of California, the
5 Assembly thereof concurring, hereby recognize April 23, 2008,
6 as “Denim Day California” and encourage everyone to wear jeans
7 on that day to help communicate the message that there is no
8 excuse for, and never an invitation to, rape; and be it further
9 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
10 this resolution to the author for distribution.

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